

SPECIFICATION

Applicant herein requests that the following amendments be made to page 1 and page 6-7 of the Specification of this application. Applicant respectfully requests that current paragraph 1 of page 1 be substituted for the following amended paragraph and that the current incomplete last paragraph of page 6 and first incomplete paragraph of page 7 be substituted with the following amended paragraph. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Page 1, Paragraph 1: marked-up version

Field of Invention

The present invention relates to a novel process for decolorization of colored effluents. More particularly it relates to a process for decolorization of colored effluents of textile mills, dye-making industries, paper and pulp industries and molasses spent wash from alcohol distilleries using an unidentified white-rot marine fungus NIOCC #2a isolated from mangrove wood and deposited on September 7, 2004 in the microbial type culture collection (MTCC) of the Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh, India, under the accession number MTCC 5159. Further, this invention relates to decolorization of these effluents using the fungus directly, its cell-free culture supernatant or immobilized fungus or extracellular polymeric substances produced by the fungus. Furthermore, the decolorization of effluents can be carried out from 30°C to 60°C and at pH 3 to 6. The decolorization of various colored effluents occurs in the presence of sea water with 25 parts per thousand salinity. Several synthetic dyes are also decolorized under similar conditions of temperature and pH by using free mycelia or immobilized fungus or extracellular culture fluids or extracellular polymeric substances.

Clean Version**Field of Invention**

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Page 6 last incomplete paragraph and page 7. first incomplete paragraph

Marked-Up Version:

The most efficient micro organisms to break down colored pollutants so far reported are white-rot fungi. These comprise mostly basidiomycetous fungi capable of extensive aerobic lignin degradation and mineralization. This is possible through several extra cellular lignin-degrading enzymes synthesized by these fungi. These enzymes lack substrate specificity and are thus capable of degrading a wide range of xenobiotics. Thus this invention relates to degradation of several such xenobiotic compounds in colored effluents by the unidentified white-rot fungus

NIOCC #2a deposited at the Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh, India and having the accession No. MTCC 5159 can be made available to public after observing normal established procedures.

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REMARKS